



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEANLAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

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Hansard 5 August 1998

**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

**Mr BEANLAND** (Indooroopilly—LP) (12.10 p.m.): Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment to that high office. It is appropriate that I also congratulate and compliment the new Governor on settling very quickly into his new role as Governor. He and Mrs Arnison have shown a willingness to visit the vast areas of this State. I believe that it is very important that people in such positions are able to get out and about and meet the people. Of course, the people themselves like to be able to meet the people who occupy those positions. I place on record my congratulations to His Excellency and Mrs Arnison and also compliment the Governor on his travel overseas during which he undertook tasks on behalf of the State in relation to trade and industry. I think that is a very important role for the Governor to perform. I believe he has done that with a great deal of ability indeed. Secondly, I thank the former Governor, Mrs Forde, and her husband for their sterling efforts in the role that they played while Mrs Forde was Governor of this State. We wish her well in her retirement and in the other activities that she will undertake in the not-too-distant future.

It is appropriate for me to thank also my campaign director and committee and my electorate assistant, Mrs Elizabeth Bulley—the unsung hero who, like all our electorate assistants, does so much in her role of assisting me as a member of Parliament. Whether we be backbenchers or Ministers, that is a very important role and one that has grown over time. I thank also my former ministerial staff; my senior ministerial adviser, Mr David Fraser; and also the staff of the Department of Justice—in particular the director-general, Mr Kevin Martin, who was a career public servant of some 35 years' standing—for all of their dedication, loyalty, hard work and effort on behalf of the people of Queensland. Unfortunately, as the director-general, Mr Martin was unceremoniously dumped by this Labor Government in its purge of top public servants following its taking of office. It is interesting to note that, in his time as a 35-year career public servant, Mr Martin occupied a number of senior positions not only under the coalition Government but also under the former Labor Government and the Government before that. He was the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Justice, the Parliamentary Counsel and the Public Trustee and then the Director-General of the Department of Justice. He served Governments from both sides of the political fence. In those circumstances, it is unfortunate that this Government saw justification in dumping him unceremoniously after some 35 years of service to the people of this great State.

I thank the people of the Indooroopilly electorate for their support. As a Minister in the former National/Liberal coalition Government, I believe that we met the requirements of the people of this vast State in many ways. We met the challenges that they placed before us. For some years, in my electorate of Indooroopilly there had been talk of constructing a new 24-hour police station and meeting the need for police services not only in my electorate but also in the western suburbs. That commitment has been fulfilled with a 24-hour police station in Moggill Road opposite the Indooroopilly Shoppingtown. That station was proposed some five or six years ago under the former Labor Government, but had not been delivered upon. It will allow for much better delivery of police services to the people of the western suburbs. I think that is paramount. The real reason for undertaking the construction of that new 24-hour police station is to ensure that the people of the area receive better services. It will serve a cross-section of needs—not only general policing but also criminal investigation work and Juvenile Aid Bureau services.

In the Budget that was brought down by the former Government prior to the election, some half a million dollars was allocated for the establishment of a Park & Ride facility at the Indooroopilly Railway Station.

**Mr Palaszczuk:** Fully funded?

**Mr BEANLAND:** It certainly was funded. It is set out in the Budget documents. I apprise the member of page 31 of Budget Paper No. 3. I look forward to that commitment in the Budget documents being honoured. There is certainly a need for a Park & Ride facility. Over a period, a growing number of commuters have been parking at Indooroopilly station. That increase started with the onslaught of changes that occurred some six or seven years ago under the former Government. In peak periods, many trains did not stop at some of the smaller stations, such as Chelmer, Graceville and Taringa. Some trains did stop at Indooroopilly during peak times but not at those smaller stations. As a result, commuters—particularly those from the outer suburbs, such as Brookfield, Pullenvale and Moggill—tended to no longer drive to Chelmer where there is a sizeable Park & Ride facility, which is now largely vacant. Instead, they parked at Indooroopilly because of the better train service from that station. Therefore, I trust that that commitment will be honoured in the forthcoming Budget of the new Government, because it is a very important facility. It will make a considerable difference to my electorate. Land is currently available that is owned by the Department of Defence. The Government will need to move on that over the coming weeks to ensure that it is not sold off for other uses. Part of that land would provide an ideal area for that purpose.

My electorate has a range of schools, particularly older schools. Being an older, established area some of the schools are more than 125 years old. Over a period, those schools have been refurbished. There is still some way to go with that refurbishment. I look forward to the continuation of the refurbishment program and also the extension of services. The former Government indicated clearly that programs were funded in the last Budget as they were in the previous two Budgets of the former Government. I noticed that there was little reference to education in the Governor's Speech on behalf of the Government on Wednesday, 29 July. That speech contained little commitment and direction in terms of the priority to be given by the Government to education in this State.

Education is a major issue in terms of creating jobs and ensuring that we have a work force that has the necessary skills to meet the needs of future international competition. Therefore, we need to ensure that a greater priority is given to education than what we have seen to date. As I said, there was little or no reference in last week's commitments that were delivered by the Governor on behalf of the Government in the Opening Speech. That rather surprised me because I believed that the current Government had a genuine desire to ensure that education services were continued in the way that they had been delivered by the former Government. Therefore, I raise these matters.

There is a need for greater technology to be provided for schools. Former Minister Quinn gave a commitment to delivering technology around the State in the education sector. Greater funding for literacy and numeracy was also forthcoming, as were programs for gifted and talented children. Much is said today about literacy and numeracy. They are important areas. However, we also have children within our communities who are gifted and talented. We need special programs for them, too. They cannot be ignored in the processes that we go through and in the programs that we put in place.

When we are talking about literacy and numeracy programs, that is a terribly important area that so often is overlooked. We have to consider not only those children who have learning problems but also those children who are at the other end of the scale. I look forward to a continuation of the emphasis and funding that that area received under the former Government.

My electorate of Indooroopilly has a continual need for community facilities, such as facilities for the arts, sporting groups, youth groups and senior citizens. There is a continual need to upgrade and improve not only the facilities but also the services to meet the needs of my electorate, which change as the make-up of the community alters. Over time, the emphasis that the community places upon various types of services and needs alters considerably. In the past, those challenges were met and I look forward to those challenges continuing to be met, particularly as they relate to my constituents.

In the past, we heard a great deal from Labor about jobs. The minority Labor Government is now in office and getting into its stride. Of course, the basis of the Government is the memorandum of understanding between the member for Brisbane Central and the member for Nicklin. That memorandum of understanding calls upon the Government to deliver a number of services in a number of areas. However, it is also incumbent upon this Government to honour its election commitments.

When the former National/Liberal coalition Government came to office, the State was in the doldrums, with a growth rate of 2.2%. Upon going out of office, the former National/Liberal coalition Government had doubled that growth rate to 4.5%—well in excess of not only the growth rates of the other States of this nation but also the growth rates of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, western European countries and the Asian countries. Queensland's growth rate was something of which we could all be proud.

I mention growth rates because it is only through economic growth that we are going to create jobs. Despite all the political point scoring and stunts that members in this place might get up to, at the end of the day jobs will be created only through economic growth, and that is something on which the former Government had a proud record. Over the last 12 months of that Government, it created more than 40% of all the jobs created in Australia. It had three record capital works budgets, culminating in a 1998-99 Budget that had a \$4.8 billion Capital Works Program, all fully funded. Those three record Capital Works Programs generated a humungous number of jobs. At the same time the former Government went out of its way to attract private enterprise to Queensland, which is so terribly important, particularly to small business.

A range of private enterprise initiatives were put in place to attract private sector entities to Queensland, such as the Boeing aircraft corporation, which relocated its regional office to south-east Queensland. That had a flow-on effect right through to the real estate industry. I mention that because, on the day that that move was announced, that night I was at a function at which real estate agents talked about the improvements that those additional thousand-plus Boeing workers were going to make not only to the real estate sector but also to the operations of people such as milkmen and small shopkeepers. Everybody was going to benefit. When we attract businesses to this State, there is a flow-on effect across-the-board. I mention that because, apart from attracting Boeing to Queensland, a range of initiatives were put in place to attract other companies, such as technology companies. Of course, there was also the establishment of Century Zinc in far north-west Queensland—something which many sceptics said would not occur.

To date, what have we seen from the new Government? Unfortunately, we keep hearing about the Briztram project. I want to put aside the pros and cons of the project and look at the job side of it. It is difficult to understand why a Government that says that it is committed to jobs would give the project the flick without ensuring that it had tied up the Federal Government funding. It is one thing to say, "We are not going to proceed with the project." That is up to the Government. However, it did that without first ensuring that the Federal Government's \$65m funding was in place. That project would have created some 3,000 jobs. It required not only Federal funding but also private sector money to put in place a light rail, public transport project. Talk about incompetence, sloppiness and negligence! They are the only words that can describe the situation in which the Government did not have another project in place to ensure that it had the Federal Government on side. To just simply throw away jobs in what I believe was a very callous manner indeed shows a lack of understanding of how job creation works.

Other projects have also been put on hold and I understand that they probably will not proceed. After listening to the members opposite during question time, I think that the Tarong power station project seems most likely not to proceed. Certainly, the project has been put well and truly on the backburner. Any thought of that project proceeding in the not-too-distant future has gone out the window. I have also heard comments made about the Callide power station. There may be contracts in place that require it to proceed. Otherwise, the Government will think about that project and perhaps not proceed with it. Again, that was said today. Throughout the State, a number of projects were planned. So I am talking about projects that would have created jobs not only in south-east Queensland or in Brisbane but also in other areas of this vast State.

The Labor Party Government wants to achieve a 5% jobless figure. That is something that is probably akin to the statement, "No child will live in poverty by the year 1990." Initially, when the member for Brisbane Central, the Leader of the Opposition as he then was, raised this matter, that 5% jobless target was going to be reached within the term of the Government—within three years. That target has now blown out to five years. I am sure that it will not be long before that target blows out some more. The Government is trying to cover its tracks and move away from this commitment, because it knows from its own actions that it is not going to meet that commitment, which was the central commitment that it made to the people during its election campaign.

I believe that, as the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice in the former Government, the coalition had a very proud record of law reform, not just in toughening up on crime but particularly in terms of putting in place new court rules for the civil and criminal jurisdictions. Queensland is the only State in the nation to have one set of court rules for the three courts: the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts. I look for that legislation coming to fruition by the end of this year.

We also disposed of the court backlog in the civil list, which was legendary in this city and in this State. That is now a thing of the past. The former Government also had a continuing program of reopening the courthouses in the rural areas that were closed by the former Goss Labor Government. I trust that that program is going to continue. We also put in place new powers of attorney legislation and a range of other law reform processes across-the-board. Of course, at the time those reforms were implemented, the Labor Party did not like it because the coalition Government was getting on, making achievements and delivering services for the people of this vast State.

Under my Ministry, disability access to courthouses proceeded at a great pace. It ensured that disabled people had adequate access to all the courts around the State. That occurred not only to the

ground floor of courthouses and the registry offices; the former Government moved to ensure that disability access was given to the first level of courthouses. For example, the Mount Isa Court House has a first level and it required lift facilities to be put in. Under the program, a number of other courthouses throughout the State also required lifts to be put in. That was an ongoing program to ensure that people with disabilities could gain access.

I want to ensure that the current Government continues with the guardianship administration legislation. That is something that we should see coming into the Chamber in the next few days, because the work on that was almost completed. That legislation would allow families to make decisions for their loved ones.

The fines legislation, which would have ensured that fine defaulters are kept out of jail, should be coming before the Parliament in the next couple of days. The coronial legislation was almost complete when we left office and there were changes proposed to the Criminal Code in a number of areas, relating not only to stalking, rape, consent and palliative care but also to organised crime. New sections need to be added to the Criminal Code to finetune the existing provisions in that regard.

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